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GENERAL  ELECTRIC
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Research Laboratory

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February 10, 1959

Professor J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California

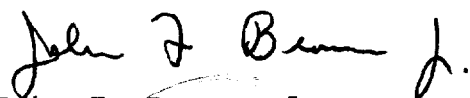
Dear Professor Lederberg:

I am enclosing a copy of a report describing some polymerizations carried out in thiourea canal complexes. As you will note, this involves using the holes in canal complexes as templates for holding the monomer molecules in specific relationships to one another while they react. The process is stereospecific in that all the monomers go together in the same way if they go together at all, and fairly specific in that only the very few monomers which have just the right molecular shape are able to undergo reaction.

Since we finished the canal complex work, we have made considerable progress in developing our understanding of the chemical bases for selectivity and stereospecificity in polymerization processes, and have discovered some processes which are much more similar to those involved in genetic systems. Unfortunately, these polymerizations appear to involve commercial interests; which means that we will not be free to discuss them for a year or two.

The canal work is free from this difficulty, however. We are hoping to get it published in a few months, and will be glad to answer any further questions which you might have on it.

Sincerely yours,



John F. Brown, Jr.
Manager, Reaction Studies Unit
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SECTION

JFB:mkc
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